

11-2004

Six Characters in Search of an Author Program

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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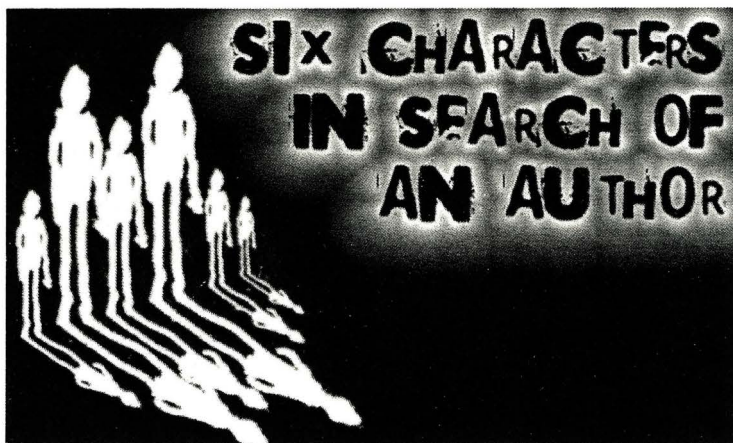
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UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE

Department of Theatre presents



by Pirandello

directed by Richard Reade

Friday, November 5-Sunday, November 14, 2004

**Russell Hall
Main Stage
USM Gorham Campus**

Production Staff

Stage Manager	Andrea Wickham
Assistant Stage Manager	Jae Rodriguez
Technical Director	Matt Meeds
Carpenters	Stage Craft Lab
Costume Shop Supervisor	Kris Hall
Stitchers	Katelyn Adams, Brad Caraszi, Emily Carter, Erika Cressey, Amy Desrosiers, Lindsey Higgins, Mary Jensen, Emily Kiesiner, Kristin Kurz, Kate Law, Daniel Lawrence, Michele Lee, Megan Marino, Jennifer Miner, Alexis Pappas, Chatfar Rodney, Jill Shapleigh, Lauren Smith, Dianna Thibaudeau
Master Electrician	Michaela Wirth
Electricians	Lighting Practicum Class
Properties Supervisor	Rachel Stults
Properties Construction	Mary Caron, Charles Ireland

Production Crew

Deck Crew	Andrea Leslie, Nathan Speckman, Charles Ireland, David Clark, Jessica Savory, Heather Green, Ariel Thomas, Charles Gagne
Wardrobe	Michelle Turcotte, Braxton Alexander, Tristan Houtz, Mary Casas
Light Board Operator	Ben Wake

Administrative Staff

Arts Promotions Director	Mary Snell
Arts Events Director	Emmanuelle Chaulet
Administrative Assistant	Lil Campbell
Box Office Manager	Mary Bastoni, Jason Cook
House Manager	Anthony Teixeira

Six Characters in Search of an Author

by Pirandello

translated and adapted by Richard Reade

Artistic Staff

Director	Richard Reade
Scenic Design	Jacob Walton
Costume Design	Jodi Ozimek
Lighting Design	Brian Hapcic

Cast

Stage Manager	Karen Ball
Assistant Stage Manager	Heather Crocker
Tech: Tim Sheridan	Tim Sheridan
Electrician Dan Goldstein	Dan Goldstein
Actor: Wesley Cianchette	Wesley Cianchette
Actor: Jules Michaud	Jules E. Michaud
Actor: Joelle Clingerman	Joelle Clingerman
Actor: Ian Carlsen	Ian Carlsen
Father	David Branch
Mother	Meikle Patch
Stepdaughter	Autumn Rose
Son	AJ Caron
Little Boy	Elijah Jensen
Little Girl	Christina Hamm
Madame Pace	Crys Worden

Setting

There will be a fifteen minute intermission.
Warning: Please be aware that there is adult language and mature
subject matter involved in tonight's production.
Please, no photos are allowed during the performance.
Also, please turn off beepers and phones as a courtesy to the actors
and other audience members.

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Cast Biographies

Karen Ball - Stage Manager

Karen Ball is a senior theater major from Portland who has been recently seen in the productions of *Macbeth*, *El Cid*, and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*. She has also just finished a very successful Main Stage show *The Laramie Project*.

Heather Crocker - Actor: ASM

Heather Crocker is a junior theatre major from Dayton, Maine. This is Heather's third Main Stage performance. She has previously performed in *Shakuntala* and *Camino Real*. She has also worked backstage on several productions including stage managing last year's *Dance USM!*

Timothy Sheridan - Technician

Timothy Sheridan of Metairie, Louisiana, is a senior majoring in Theatre. He has previously been in other USM performances such as *Camino Real*, *the shape of things* and *In the Box*. Timothy has lived in Maine for the past six years.

Dan Goldstein - Electrician

Dan Goldstein, of Nashua, New Hampshire, is a sophomore majoring in theatre. Some of his past credits include *Murder Me Always*, *Hamlet*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*, and *Romeo & Juliet*. He is a cartoonist for The Free Press as well as a political commentator on G-TV. Dan is proud to make his USM Main Stage debut with this show.

Wesley Cianchette - Actor

Wesley Cianchette, hailing from Jacksonville, Maryland, is a junior theater major here at USM. Wes' show credits include: *Clue*, *Ten Little Indians*, *Shakuntala*, and *Cabaret*. Also working for GraveCo. productions, Wes is an amateur film-maker, finishing up a civil war epic this past summer. Look for Wes in *Our Town* at the Children's Theater of Maine.

Jules Michaud - Actor

Jules Michaud of Millinocket, Maine, is a junior majoring in theatre. He has previously been in such performances as *Camino Real*, *Machinal*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Macbeth*, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Jules is happy to be returning to the Main Stage after doing many shows with SPA and the MT Players.

Joelle Clingerman - Actor

Joelle Clingerman is originally from Orono, Maine and has been in many productions in and out of school. She is a freshman and this is her first Main Stage production. She has played many roles, including the "Witch" in Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, and "Fraulein Schneider" in Kander and Ebb's *Cabaret*.

Ian Carlsen - Actor

Ian Carlsen is a sophomore theatre major. Shows include, *The Shape of Things*, *Our Town* and *Twelfth Night*. He will also be in the upcoming show *Lysistrata* at USM. Thanks to everyone involved with this show. Special thanks going to his parents to whom he owes a great deal.

Director's Note

Luigi Pirandello wrote *Six Characters in Search of an Author* in 1921 as part of a trilogy which examines the impossibility of knowing reality. There is no objective truth to know. What we think of as reality is totally subjective. Truth is perceived differently by each individual and one is unable to communicate that perceived truth to another person. Hence, we are sealed into our own limited world.

Pirandello developed *Six Characters in Search of an Author* with his own theatre company, the **Art Theater of Rome**. The actors were rehearsing a revival of *Mixing It Up*, a play that they had recently performed. He wrote the major speeches but allowed the actors to create dialogue which he then had recorded and which has become part of the script.

The production you are about to see follows in the same spirit. The director and actors of our company have collaborated to create a contemporary rendition of this classic. The actors use their own names. The rehearsal is the revival of *The Imaginary Invalid*, a production done here on this stage two years ago. Much of the early dialogue was created by the actors and it reflects impressions that the student-actors have of their surrounding environment.

Oh, yes, please turn off pagers and cell telephones for the performance.

Thank you.

Richard Reade
Director

David Branch - Father

David Branch, originally from Freeport, Maine, is a junior majoring in theatre. He has been actively involved in the USM theatre department including his roles as "Vito" from *Vito on the Beach*, and multiple roles in both *We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!* and the *Laramie Project*.

Meikle Patch - Mother

Meikle Patch, a non-traditional theatre major has previously appeared in two Main Stage productions, *Camino Real* and *Shakuntala*. The mother of three delightful young people, Meikle has performed in musicals with Portland Players and Lyric. In the early 60's, she studied and performed in NYC with Alwin Nikolais. She thanks her family, cast, crew, and Minor.

Autumn Rose - Stepdaughter

Autumn Rose is a freshman this year and is thrilled to be starting her college experience in a Main Stage production. Autumn is a theatre major and loves all performing arts. She has recently performed in *Spoon River Anthology* and had a blast playing "Madame Arcati" in *Blithe Spirit*. Thanks to everyone!

A.J. Caron - Son

A.J. Caron of Buxton, Maine, is a senior majoring in theatre. He has previously been in other USM productions: *The Glass Menagerie*, *Shakuntala*, and *Camino Real*. He is actively involved in karate, and has aspirations of becoming a drama teacher at the high school level.

Elijah Jensen - Little Boy

Elijah Jensen is 14 yrs old and has been performing on the violin since the age of six. He has done over 500 solo concerts and has been featured on three local T.V. news programs as a special interest story, as well as NPR's "All Things Considered." Among other things, Elijah's future plans are to pursue his musical education.

Christina Hamm - Little Girl

This is Christina's first acting experience, but she is no stranger to the stage. She has been studying dance for 5 years at the Gorham Center of Movement where she was featured as the mouse in the ballet *Cinderella*. She has also been chosen to enter competition at dance festivals in Portland and Denver. The Cast says she is a treat to work with.

Crys Worden - Madame Pace

Crys Worden is a third year theatre major from Phippsburg, Maine. She made her Main Stage debut in last year's production of *Shakuntala and the Ring of Recognition* as "Chaturika". She can also be seen on Thursdays as a cast member of Interactors, Inc.

Artistic Staff Biographies

Jacob Walton - Scenic Design

Jacob Walton is a senior theatre major focusing on set design. This is his third time working on the Main Stage. Jacob has done set design for multiple shows over the years including *Macbeth* and *Cabaret*. Jacob also has received honorable mention at the Region I KCACTF for set design, and the Grannia Theatre Scholarship.

Jodi Ozimek, Costume Designer

Jodi Ozimek is delighted to return to USM for her second academic year as costume designer and lecturer. Select USM credits include: *The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, *Shakuntala*, *The Laramie Project*, and *Company*. Over the summer Jodi returned to American Players Theatre in Wisconsin to assistant costume design *Cymbeline*. She received her BA in theatre from Michigan State University and her MFA in costume and design from Purdue University. Jodi would like to thank her husband for his endless love and support.

Brian Hapcic, Lighting Designer

Brian Hapcic joins the faculty at USM this year, relocating from a position at the University of Southern Mississippi. He holds a BA in English from Ohio University, and an MFA in Design and Technology from the University of Montana. His specialties are lighting and sound.

Matt Meeds, Technical Director

Matthew Meeds joined the Department in September of 2000. Matthew came to us from the local theatre community where he has worked at the Mad Horse Theatre, the Public Theatre, and the Theatre at Monmouth, as well as "away" theaters such as George Street Playhouse in NJ, Syracuse Stage, and Pennsylvania Centre Stage. Most recently he designed the set for last year's production of *The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-In-the-Moon Marigolds*.

Kris Hall, Costume Shop Supervisor

This is Kris Hall's fifth season as the Costume Shop Supervisor. This year she also enrolled as a Masters degree candidate in Studio Art at Maine College of Art. This summer she designed *Pump Boys and Dinettes* at Maine State Music Theatre.

Andrea Wickham - Stage Manager

Andrea Wickham of Monroe, Maine, is a junior majoring in Theatre, and minoring in Business. She has previously been in other USM performances, *Man in the Moon Marigolds*, and *Machinal*. Andrea is pleased to be working with Minor Rootes again as a stage manager for a Main Stage show. She has performed in many musicals and plays, but enjoys directing the most.

Jae Rodriguez - Assistant Stage Manager

Jae Rodriguez, originally from San Antonio, Texas. He has done many shows in Texas such as *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Blythe Spirit*, and *Dracula Baby*. A sophomore theatre major he has portrayed three characters in the production of *Shakuntala*. He has been nominated as an alternate for the Irene Ryan award. He would also like to thank his family for all their love and support.

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XXXVII

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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels. Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

in Washington, DC in the spring of 2005. Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

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by Moisés Kaufman
directed by Wil Kilroy

Friday, Nov. 5-Sunday, Nov. 14, 2004

**SIX CHARACTERS IN
SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR**
by Luigi Pirandello
directed by Richard Reade

Friday, Dec. 3-Saturday, Dec. 11, 2004

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER*
by Chris Gygell
directed by Thomas Power and William Steele
*At Saint Lawrence Arts Community Center, 76
Congress Street, Portland

Friday, Feb. 11-Sunday, Feb. 20, 2005

LYSISTRATA
By Aristophanes
directed by Ariel Francoeur '05

Friday, March 11-Saturday, March 19, 2005

THE MAGIC FLUTE
by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
directed by Walter Stump
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